SPECIFICATION

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Resilient Elastomeric Structure

Cross Reference to Related Applications

Referenced-applications

This application is the national stage commencement under 35 U.S.C. 371 of international application number PCT/GB02/04050 filed 6 September 2002, claiming priority to application number GB 0121655.5 filed 7 September 2001.

Background of Invention

[0001] This invention relates to a resilient elastomeric structure. In particular, but not exclusively, it relates to a resilient elastomeric structure for use as a component of a playground toy or an amusement ride.

[0002] In children's playgrounds, it is common to find rides that take the form of a ride body upon which a child can sit, the ride body being connected through a helical spring to a plate secured on the ground. This means that a child can sit upon the body and bounce or rock, causing the spring to flex. The resilient nature of the spring is such that it tends always to urge the ride body back to a neutral, upright position. To add interest to the ride, the ride body is typically shaped to resemble an animal, a motorcycle, or some other shape intended to please a child.

[0003] These rides are popular with children, and are very safe, there being no instances known to the applicant of a child being harmed when playing on them, other than in the type of minor falls that will happen inevitably. However, the presence of a strong steel spring can give the ride an "engineered" appearance and the impression, even if incorrect, that the spring could injure a child, perhaps by trapping a hand or foot.

[0004] It has been proposed in US-A-5 415 590 to replace the spring in such a ride with a dome-shaped construction of natural and neoprene rubber, into which is moulded a steel support post, the body of the ride being carried on the support post. While such a ride may perform well when it is first manufactured, experience has shown that rubber will, over time, become brittle